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# REBELS RAGE

Offense surges with 50-point win; team rises to 5-5



PHOTO BY: TAYLAR TEEL

Jordan Wilkins runs past a defender in pursuit of a first down during Saturday's game against the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns. Ole Miss won 50-22.

**JOSH GOLLIHAR**  
STAFF WRITER

The Ragin' Cajuns ventured into Oxford for a late-season, non-conference matchup Saturday morning. With the pressure on, the Rebels emerged victorious by a score of 50-22. Their second straight win, Phil Longo and his mercurial offense

put on a clinic against the struggling visitors. Ole Miss dominated the first half. Jordan Ta'amu carved up the Ragin' Cajuns' defensive unit both through the air and on the ground. His command of the offense continues to grow with every snap. Ta'amu accounted for 321 yards, including three touchdown throws and two touchdown runs. He was generous with his targets,

finding nine different receivers on the day. AJ Brown led those receivers with 12 catches and 146 yards with touchdown grabs of 31 and 27 yards. Head coach Matt Luke was pleased with his offense's fast start "The offense scored on the first five possessions," Luke said. "I was pleased for them coming out ready to play. Jordan played really well."

The Rebel defense, at times, did struggle to contain LA-Lafayette quarterback Levi Lewis in the pocket. The Ragin' Cajuns were able to generate big plays when Lewis avoided the pass rush to keep plays alive. But in most every other aspect, the defense performed well in the first half. Taylar Polk came up with four tackles,

SEE FOOTBALL PAGE 8

## Dance company spotlights Cuban culture

**KIARA MANNING**  
STAFF WRITER

A dose of Cuban culture is headed to Oxford as Ole Miss welcomes the Malpasos Dance Company to campus. During their visit, members of the dance company will speak and participate in various events around campus and in the community. The dance company's residency began Sunday with a potluck welcome and presentation by Spanish artistic director Fernando Saez and the entire Malpasos Dance Company. Dance professor Jennifer Mizenko spearheaded the residency and was inspired to start the project last year after researching Cuban dance companies, where she came across Osnel Delgado and his company. Mizenko said her initial idea was to just have a study abroad class, but that evolved to include this residency along with a trip to Cuba. "I have been working on

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# Croft alumni discuss post-graduation employment

**MICHAELA WATSON**  
STAFF WRITER

"Describe your dream. Don't prescribe it," Ole Miss alumnus Patrick Dogan told students at a panel event hosted by the Croft Institute for International Studies on Friday. "Pursuing your dream is like a game of chess, it's not like dominos, where everything happens in a perfect order. Being able to have the big picture and knowing what you want are important." Catherine Couper, Patrick Dogan and Joel Fyke, all Ole

Miss alumni with degrees in international studies, spoke to a crowd of undergraduate students in the Croft building Friday afternoon. The graduates advised students on making the most of their undergraduate degrees and pursuing jobs they want after graduation. The Croft Institute for International Studies will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year, and Friday's event was the second of its kind under director Oliver Dinius' leadership. Sophomore international-

al studies major Gabrielle Schust said she chose to attend to understand what Couper did during her time as an undergraduate that made her successful, so she can take similar steps to achieve her goals. Couper spoke about uncertainty after graduation. "I didn't have much of an exit strategy after college, and even if I had, it probably would have fallen apart," Couper said. "I felt like I missed the boat, that everyone is doing

SEE CROFT PAGE 3



PHOTO BY: ALEXIS T. RHODEN

Croft alumni Joel Fyke, Patrick Dogan and Catherine Couper participated in a panel at the Croft Institute on Friday.

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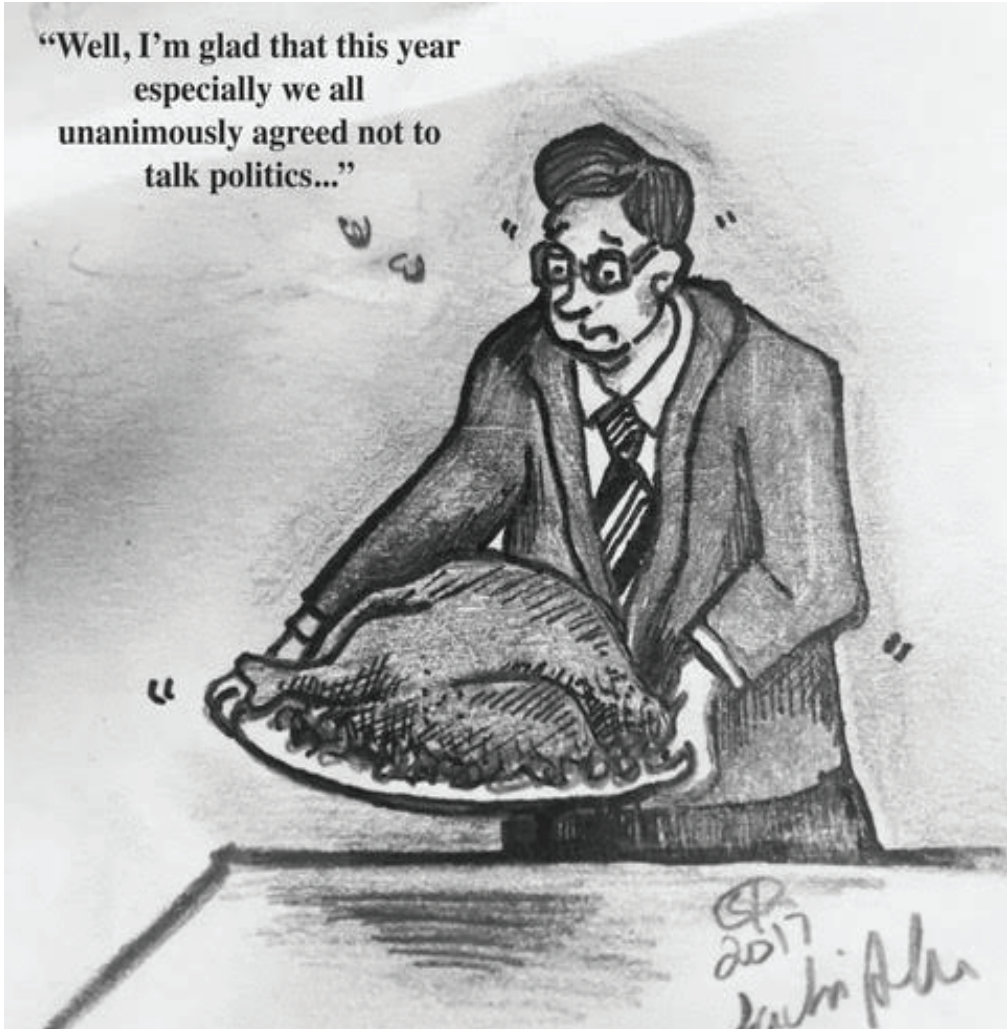
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COLUMN

# Mississippi transportation going nowhere



**WOODY DOBSON**  
STAFF COLUMNIST

I love being on time. When I wake up every morning, my brain shouts, “Woody, you MUST be on time!” Immediately, I want to begin moving. This goes for any location my mind adjusts to. Whether it’s work, school or the doctor, I’ll make sure I arrive.

My car is essential for time management, and usually, my 2014 Mazda 2 serves me well. However, there’s just one problem: Mississippi’s roads are terrible for my car, and statewide transportation also suffers due to ineffective transportation initiatives.

Driving on North Gloster Street in Tupelo about three years ago was the first time

I conceived an even slightly negative thought about state-wide transportation. On this single road, there were numerous potholes and crevices that could have severely damaged any personal vehicle or semi-truck alike.

From that point forward, it’s been increasingly difficult to keep my eyes off highways to check whether they’re in disrepair, which isn’t a bad thing. On the other hand, I’d like to be able to drive five minutes down a Mississippi road without hitting a pothole. Wouldn’t you?

Instead, it seems Mississippi’s roads are slowly declining in quality as the years go on. This is especially true in Mississippi’s rural areas, where the roads are four times more likely to cause fatalities than any other streets in the state are, according to transportation research group TRIP. This fatality rate doesn’t sound very comforting when you are driving every day to work.

Nevertheless, Mississippi lacks the funding to fix state-wide transportation issues, as Mississippi is the poorest compared to the other 49 states.

Luckily, the Mississippi De-

partment of Transportation (MDOT), is, in fact, aiding Mississippi’s transportation sector as much as it can. MDOT workers help greatly by repairing multitudes of issue areas within the counties, along with providing roadside assistance. MDOT’s work affects civil rights, electrical grids and the environment within the state, while simultaneously providing the support for Mississippi’s infrastructural well-being, for which it is known.

Therefore, it would prove difficult for Mississippi’s transportation sector to sustain itself without MDOT’s continued support in various areas of expertise. A key concern, though, is: If Mississippi cannot increase infrastructural funding, will MDOT become useless?

As 2018 looms, Mississippi seems to be looking this way. The reliability of Mississippi’s transportation system is far too reliant on state economic growth. For state roads and transportation interests to improve, private sector economics would have to do so first.

Without a doubt, transportation must find a statewide solution. Just considering the

statistic that 28 percent of Mississippi’s major roads are in poor quality and 27 percent are in mediocre quality is enough to prove this.

Getting a D+ on the nationwide infrastructural report card isn’t something Mississippi should be proud to represent. But new transportation initiatives could alleviate the national pressure to compete with better-funded states.

Government workers, such as those within MDOT, are the true, unsung heroes representing Mississippi’s various infrastructural sectors. However, without proper economic funding, their work will be to no avail, and serious trouble will eventually reach Mississippi.

Economic choices must be addressed, and alternatives must be introduced to counteract ineffective transportation policy in Mississippi. Until that happens, though, unfortunately, you might just hit that pothole on a Mississippi street and end up going nowhere.

*Woody Dobson is a senior political science major from Tupelo.*

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



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MEMBER NEWSPAPER



## CUBA

continued from page 1

this for exactly a year,” Mizenko said. “The idea originated when I was hanging out with a good friend, Milly West, who is a photographer and gallery owner and has been working with Cuban artists since the 1990s. I then fantasized about how I could expand on what she was already doing and apply that to dance.”

The week’s events include lectures, discussions and modern Cuban dance classes. In addition to hosting public events, the company will also visit anthropology, Spanish, dance and political science classes. The members hope to expose students to all aspects of Cuban culture, including the current political and cultural climate of Cuba with a lecture led by Fernando Saez.

Mizenko said she is always looking for new ways to challenge her students, and believes the residency is something they will benefit from.

“Working with a choreographer and dancers of this caliber gives the students something to aspire and work towards,” Mizenko said. “They see what is possible and can make it a goal to achieve the level of dancing they are seeing in front of them in the studio.”

The residency will accompany a Cuban exchange program, Mizenko and eight other students will travel to Cuba in December. While there, students will study under the Malpaso Dance Company, and the trip will culminate with a performance at the Ford Center on Jan. 27.

This will be the first time a Study Abroad class has gone

to Cuba.

Theatre arts major Alexis Boucugnani said she is excited to get back to her Cuban roots. As a Cuban-American, she said this is more than just a study abroad trip for her.

“I am the first of my family to visit Cuba since my family left in 1957,” Boucugnani said. “I am excited to bridge the cultures of Cuba and America through modern dance, as well as visit the country for which my family lived for generations.”

Students raised money for their trip through GoFundMe campaigns, fundraisers, corporate sponsorships and grant money. Their largest fundraiser was Salsa Night, which had a cash bar and a silent auction.

Freshman Mary Lacy Lusk said she is ready to experience her first time out of the country and to see new things, even if it is for a short amount of time.

“I believe that experiencing a different culture will allow me to grow not only as a dancer but as an individual by allowing me to better understand and connect with individuals that have similar experiences, like the Malpaso dancers,” Lusk said.

Mizenko emphasized how closely dance resembles everyday life, something she said she hopes her students will learn from the Malpaso dancers.

“I’ve been dancing since I was 5 years old. It’s a part of the fabric of my life,” Mizenko said. “Movement is the main form of how everyone communicates. We trust movement. We like the people who walk the walk and not just talk the talk. I see no separation between dance and everyday life.”

## CROFT

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incredible things.”

Couper had enrolled in a Spanish graduate program at Ole Miss, later earned her master’s in public health and now works in emergency management at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Directly following the panel discussion, the alumni met with small groups of students to conduct breakout sessions, which allowed for more personal conversations.

“If you don’t get the job, talk to the person who just rejected you and ask them where you should go and get some experience before you can come back,” 2005 graduate Joel Fyke said.

A recipient of the Truman Scholarship, Fyke began his career in a small newspaper and now works as an associate at the Forman Watkins and Krutz law firm in Jackson.

Fyke, Couper and Dogan all stressed the importance of networking and participating in informational interviews, like formal meetings between someone interested in working in a certain field and a professional in that field.

Couper said networking is essential, and how she landed the job she has now. She also said it’s important to always be ready, especially with an up-to-date resume.

Dogan agreed that an up-to-date resume is key for recent grads looking to showcase their skills.

“Set yourself up for success and reach out to alumni and use the university system,” he said.

Couper encouraged the students to use their work ethic



PHOTO BY: ALEXIS T. RHODEN

Croft alumnus Joel Fyke speaks during a panel discussion at the Croft Institute on Friday.

to their advantage when applying for jobs.

“Ole Miss students have a reputation for being folks that are willing to just get the job done,” Couper said. “That I

have seen externally. They don’t consider themselves entitled or above any sort of task, and they just put in the grease and get the job done.”

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# IDK takes first step toward relevancy with album

**JORDAN MAURY**  
STAFF WRITER

Unless you had the distinct honor of attending Isaiah Rashad's Lil Sunny Tour, you most likely have not become acquainted with IDK.

The Maryland native is a charismatic rapper and performer who has had very little mainstream buzz over the course of his brief career. However, the budding star is prepared to make his first step toward relevancy with the release of his debut studio album, "IWASVERYBAD." The album is a theatrical account of IDK's life experiences, detailing his erroneous behavior and his estranged relationship with his mother.

"IWASVERYBAD" is not a cordial introduction. On the opening track, "Mrs. Lynch, Your Son Is The Devil," IDK brazenly carves out a rather crude image of himself as he explains his deviant tendencies. Although IDK's depiction of himself is not particularly flattering, he manages to create a persona for the listener to latch onto.

It is not just the scathing lyrics that produce this ominous feeling at the beginning of the album. It's also the chaotic production. On track two, the production mirrors IDK's troubled mind as it constantly switches back and forth between the tumultuous instrumental behind the verses and the grand sound that carries the hook. The overall sound only becomes more menacing as the album transitions seamlessly into the hard-hitting "Pizza Shop Extended." The ferocious energy and the tales of armed robbery elevate the prevailing mood to a level that makes one want to lit-

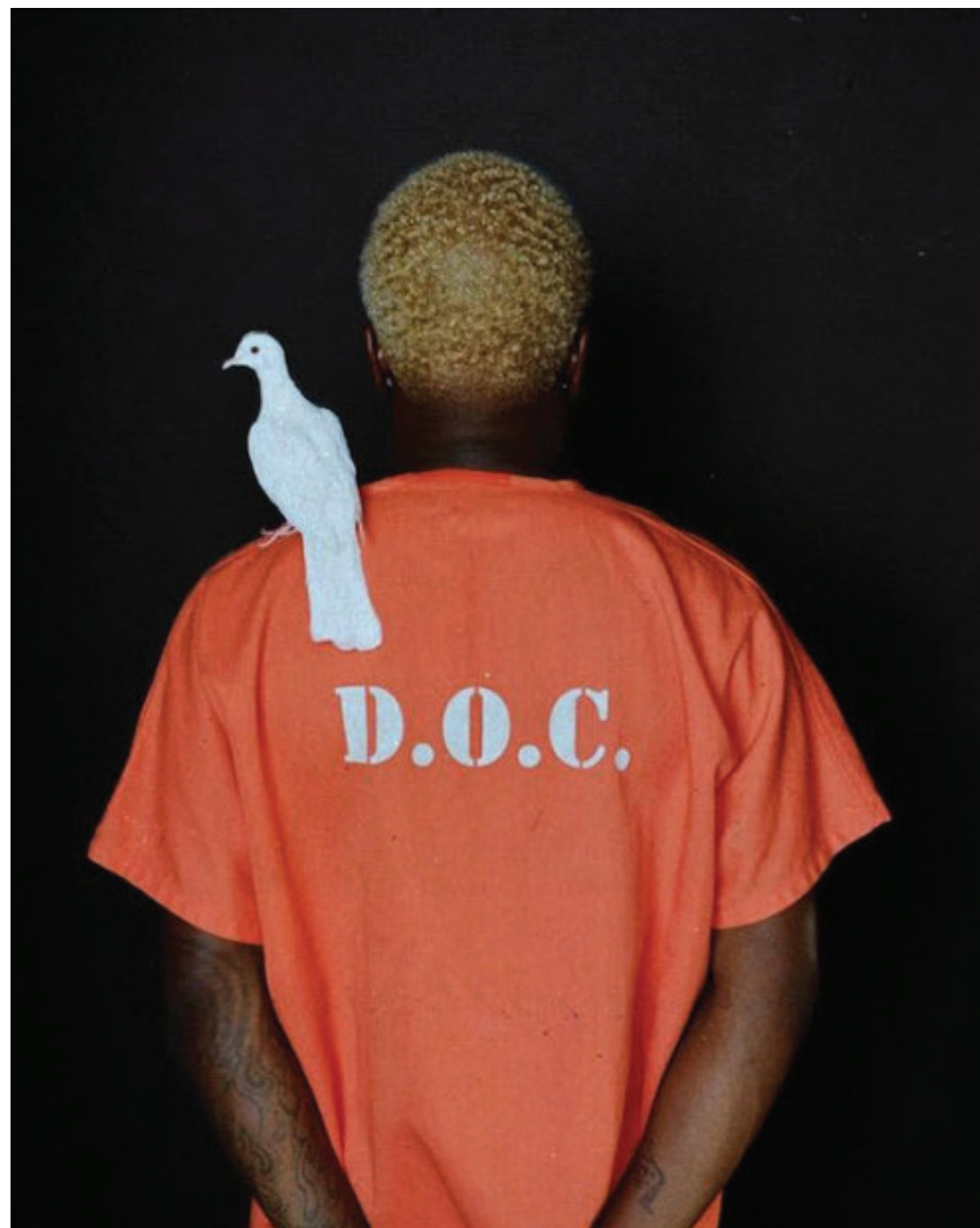


PHOTO COURTESY: HIPHOPDX

erally bounce off the walls.

The vulgar theme IDK creates with the beginning is the driving force behind the album. Every song feels as though it is dripping with his wild personality. For instance, "Windows Up" is supposed to be his attempt at serenading a young woman, but instead, he makes crass suggestions about hooking up. Though his tone and the production are a lot calmer here than on the

rest of the album, IDK cannot help but remind you of his deplorable nature. From the superb sequencing to the emphasis of reoccurring themes, "IWASVERYBAD" possesses a type of cohesiveness that makes every song feel necessary.

Despite coming off as rather rough around the edges, IDK boasts a feathery touch when crafting his music. The small things IDK does on the album

make "IWASVERYBAD" feel like a full-on theatrical performance. On track two, IDK uses the banging instrumental to create a mental image of a police team pounding on his door. IDK then adopts a quick-paced but jagged flow that gives the impression he is running from the police and panting heavily. These theatrics add an extra layer to the storytelling and keep the songs compelling.

The album reaches its pinnacle on "No Shoes On The Rug, Leave Them At The Door," in which IDK flaunts his versatility as an artist and delves into his complicated relationship with his mother. The song opens with a recording reminding IDK he only has 10 minutes left on his phone call from jail. He proceeds to pour his emotions through the phone and admits his mother's approval is all he ever wanted. However, his inability to do the right thing prevented him from ever obtaining his mother's love. He reinforces this sentiment by using a womanly voice to represent his mother confronting his younger self. These exchanges are simply riveting. By adding all of this context, IDK is building a character who is not as two-dimensional as the beginning of the album would lead one to believe.

"IWASVERYBAD" does a great job of putting IDK's abilities on full display, but there are some hiccups along the way. The guest verses rarely add anything of substance and could have been left out completely. The only feature that feels right is the rowdy Chief Keef on "17 Wit A 38." The album also ends on a rather odd note with the track "Baby Scale." "Black Sheep, White Dove" feels like it would have been a more appropriate ending to "IWASVERYBAD" after the revelations on the song and the one before it.

IDK's effort on his debut album deserves applause. One of the hardest things for an artist is finding his identity and connecting with the audience. However, IDK manages to do both while also sporting an assortment of flows and creative ideas. I am sure his next effort will be equally impressive.

## Win Ole Miss Football Tickets

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# University hosts first-ever Persian Arts Festival

JACQUELINE KNIRNSCHILD  
STAFF WRITER

Poignant pitches strummed with a brass pick on the setar and cyclical beats emanating from the tonbak filled Nutt Auditorium during the first-ever Persian Arts Festival at Ole Miss on Friday afternoon.

Iranian composer, musician and poet Shahin Shahbazi closed his eyes while playing the four-string setar and then opened them to gaze at his partner, Pezhham Akhavass, a percussionist and music director playing the tonbak, a goblet drum. The two have a bond and understand each other because their performances are completely improvised — a signature of traditional Persian music.

In addition to the classical music workshop, the festival, organized by the Iranian Student Association, also consisted of a fine arts documentary in the morning and a music and painting concert in the evening in which the duo played while Akhavass’ father, artist Mostafa Akhavass, painted a masterpiece.

The three artists traveled from California and president of the Iranian Student Association Vahid Naderyan, a physics Ph.D. student, said he is pretty sure this is one of the first times Persian musicians have performed in the state of Mississippi.

During the music workshop, in addition to the setar, Shahbazi also demonstrated how the long-necked tar is

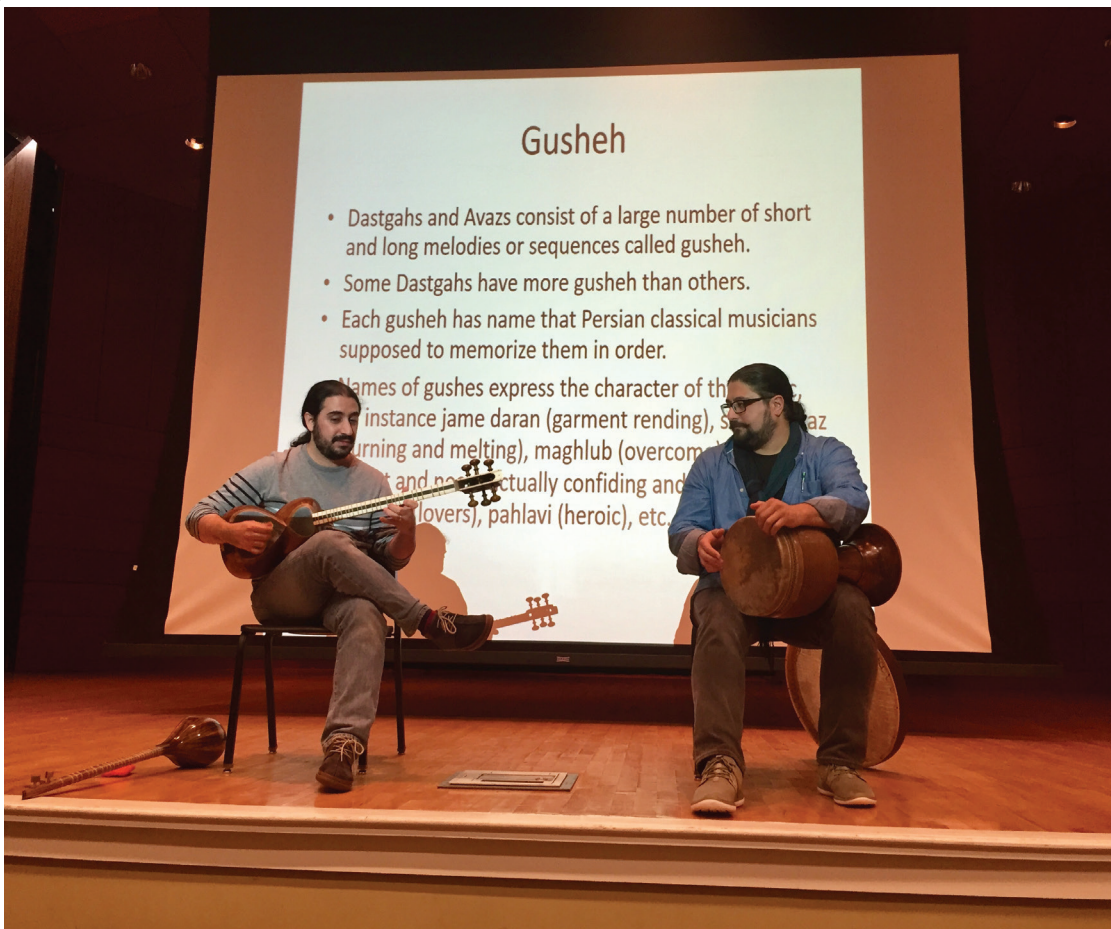


PHOTO BY: JACQUELINE KNIRNSCHILD

Shahin Shahbazi strums a setar, and Pezhham Akhavass plays the tonbak during the Persian Arts Festival at Nutt Auditorium on Friday.

played, and Akhavass showed the audience how to play the daf, a frame drum.

The two share the same birthday and live together in San Francisco. They have been practicing music together for two years. Akhavass said such improvisational music is only possible when two people share lifestyles and form a close relationship.

“We live next to each other, and in the process of eating, drinking and being together, we get to know each other, so we know when and how to

raise the melody or change the tempo,” Akhavass said. “It’s like a journey with a friend, the life comes into the music.”

Shahbazi said the music comes from their hearts and just happens in the moment. Neither of the two said they think about the specific note they are playing in the moment but rather just have a mystical connection to the instrument.

“Sometimes I even don’t understand how it’s happening,” Akhavass said. “That’s

the beauty of Persian music.”

They explained that “dastgah” is the modal system used in traditional Persian art music, which refers to 12 principal scales or patterns. Dastgahs are melodies that performers use as the core of an improvised piece. There are more than 50 dastgahs, but musicians tend to use just the main 12.

Akhavass said he likes to spice up the repetitive rhythms with infusions of concepts from other cultures, such as India, and genres

such as jazz.

“I’m a fancy tonbak player,” Akhavass said. “I like to decorate the patterns and add some dots in the painting.”

Shahbazi also designs jewelry and writes poems in Farsi that he incorporates into his compositions. After music, literature is his next biggest passion, he said.

“The most comfortable place in the world for me is the stage,” Shahbazi said.

Even though during their childhoods, music was prohibited in public in Iran, Shahbazi and Akhavass both grew up in artistic families — Shahbazi’s mother is a vocalist, and his grandfather is a musician, while Akhavass’ father is a master of Persian art forms such as calligraphy and painting. Thus, growing up, the two still had a close relationship with music and were trained by some of the best Persian artists.

Akhavass said that as a kid, he did not really enjoy playing games and found instruments more fun. He said he would sit in his closet and practice up to 12 hours per day. Shahbazi also said he used to spend 16 hours a day practicing.

Junior accounting and Chinese major Drew Ramsey said he was amazed by how quickly Akhavass’ fingers moved over the tonbak and daf drums.

“I can’t believe he’s moving his fingers that quick,” Ramsey said. “It just looks impossible.”

## THIS WEEK IN OXFORD

### MONDAY

**8:30 a.m.** - Yoga in the Gallery - UM Museum  
**5 p.m.** - Julie Cantrell with "Perennials" - Off Square Books  
**9 p.m.** - Thick Paint and Anna McClellan - Proud Larry's

### TUESDAY

**5 p.m.** - Karen Cox with "Goat Castle: A True Story of Murder, Race, and the Gothic South" - Off Square Books  
**6 p.m.** - Oxford Science Cafe: Mushrooms - Lusa  
**6 p.m.** - Big, Bad Art Show reception - Powerhouse  
**9 p.m.** - Julia Lucille - The Lyric Oxford

### WEDNESDAY

**5 p.m.** - Dave DiBenedetto with "S is for Southern" - Off Square Books  
**6:30 p.m.** - Premiere of "Blood Country" - Powerhouse  
**9 p.m.** - Strange Ranger - Proud Larry's

### THURSDAY

**5 p.m.** - Maude Schuyler Clay and William Dunlap reception - Southside Art Gallery  
**6 p.m.** - Women's Self-Defense Class - Oxford Police Department  
**6 p.m.** - Simeon Marsalis with "As Lie Is To Grin" - The Lyric Oxford  
**7 p.m.** - Rebels Against Sexual Assault Open Mic Night - Cups  
**9 p.m.** - Noir at the Bar - Proud Larry's

### FRIDAY

**9 p.m.** - Dickey Doo and The Don'ts - Proud Larry's







# Longo Ball: Ole Miss offense continues to score

**JOHN MACON GILLESPIE**  
STAFF WRITER

The offensive fireworks continued for Ole Miss on Saturday.

Since quarterback Jordan Ta'amu took over the helm of the Rebel offense, Ole Miss has had no shortage of success. Except for a late-game meltdown against Arkansas, the already dangerous Ole Miss offense has taken large strides with the Hawaii native under center.

Ta'amu continued his dominating style of play Saturday as the Rebels routed the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns 50-22.

"(This win) was super huge for our team and our coaches," Ta'amu said. "Like coach (Matt) Luke says, everyone remembers everything that happens in November. We're 2-0 in November, so we've got to keep that rolling."

In his three starts at quarterback, Ta'amu has thrown seven touchdowns and rushed for four, with just two interceptions. As a junior college transfer, the game against Arkansas was Ta'amu's first SEC start. Though Ole Miss lost the game in the final seconds, the Rebel quarterback has seen himself progress since that day.

"I most definitely feel more confident," Ta'amu said. "I'm just reading the defense a lot quicker and knowing where I need to throw the ball."

Ta'amu's confidence showed in excess Saturday as he threw for 418 yards and had five total touchdowns. Two of Ta'amu's three passing touchdowns went to wide receiver A.J. Brown, who tied Laquon Treadwell's school record for most receptions in a game — 14. Brown's 14 catches gave him 185 yards, the second most he has accumulated in a game this season.

"A.J. Brown is one of our assets as a receiver," Ta'amu said. "Just having him out there is pretty awesome. I can just give him the ball, and he can just make plays off the catch."

For Brown, the formula for his success against Louisiana was simple.

"Beating my man one on one," Brown said. "Every time my number got called, I just made a play."

Although Brown is known to beat defenders one on



PHOTO BY: TAYLAR TEEL

Jordan Ta'amu looks to throw a pass downfield for a touchdown during Saturday's game against Louisiana. Ole Miss won 50-22.

one, defenses still place him in one-on-one man coverage. For Brown, however, this does not come as a surprise.

"I'm not surprised because we've got talent outside of us: D.K. (Metcalf) and (Damarkus) Lodge," Brown said.

Offensive coordinator Phil Longo was also pleased with the performance of his offense that came after last week's win over Kentucky.

"I just felt like we had a good plan," Longo said. "We wanted to roll into this game with the momentum we finished last game."

Ole Miss will have to continue its offensive momentum in its last two games of the season. The Rebels host

Texas A&M this Saturday for senior recognition before traveling to Mississippi State to finish the year with the Egg Bowl. If Texas A&M and Mississippi State can run the football with the success they have had most of the season, the struggling Rebel defense may have difficulties getting stops, but the offense should flourish.

Ole Miss' offense is good enough to score points against both the Aggies and the Bulldogs, and if the Rebel defense can force enough stops, Ta'amu and company can win more football games. This offense is special — that's no question.

But is it special enough to continue its success?

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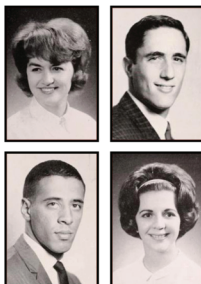
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## continued from page 1

Two of Louisiana's three touchdowns arrived in the second half. Lewis continued to scramble, avoiding pressure and allowing his receivers to open up. Even though the Rebels finished the game with three sacks, there were opportunities for more.



PHOTO BY: TAYLOR TEELE

Ole Miss defense stops a Louisiana running back during Saturday's 50-22 win over the Bagin' Cajuns

With that said, the Ragin' Cajun run game was effective. Nine different players combined for 228 rushing yards. This Ole Miss defense continues to struggle with opponents' run games. Polk finished as the leading tackler for the Rebels

Van Jefferson left the game in the first half with a seemingly-serious injury to his left arm. Matt Luke had not received an update as to the extent of the injury after the game.

With the win, the Rebels improved to 5-5 on the season. Two games remain this season

for the Rebels, both potentially vital for Matt Luke's future as a head coach. Texas A&M comes to town next weekend for senior night, and a Thanksgiving Day Egg Bowl matchup waits in the not-too-distant future.

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